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THE TASK OF THE FOOD PRODUCERS.

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VOL. XLIII.—No. 1100.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd. 1918.

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[REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER.]



COMMODORE GODFREY M. PAINE, R.N., C.B., M.V.O.
Fifth Sea Lord of the Admiralty and Director of Naval Air Service.
From a drawing by Francis Dodd, one of the Official British Artists.

COUNTRY LIFE

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COUNTRY LIFE & COUNTRY PURSUITS

OFFICES: 20, TAVISTOCK STREET, COVENT GARDEN, W.C.

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GOVERNMENT AT HOME

WHILE Lord Rhondda's rationing scheme will be welcomed by the country as an assurance that the supplies of food will be equitably distributed, it is most desirable that steps should be taken beforehand to make people acquainted with the system. On the face of it this may appear to be a very simple suggestion, but it is really extremely important. On the tact and sense with which government at home is carried out in these critical times will depend the unity of the population. Already there has been a considerable amount of grumbling at the shortage of provisions, the necessity of waiting in queues, and other inconveniences incidental to a state of siege. This dissatisfaction might at any time assume a violent form unless prudence comes

to the rescue and makes due preparation for applying compulsion to the consumption of food. It does not seem to be clearly understood at headquarters that there are numbers of people who are very far from understanding the reasons for the various restraints to which they are subjected, hence has arisen a tendency, which should not be neglected, to kick against them. Our argument may, perhaps, be best understood by an illustration. If the head of a household, without giving any reason, but speaking as it were magisterially and dogmatically, cut down the meals of his establishment to a degree beyond what was recommended by considerations of health, he would be taking steps that might at any time lead to rebellion. If, instead of doing that, he called them together and, speaking rather as a comrade than as a commander, told them that the usual supplies for this, that, and the other reason had failed; that they could not have their usual allowance of butter or margarine, sugar or meat, because circumstances had arisen in which it was not available, the probability is that, their reason being appealed to, they would loyally respond and adopt any style of living which was recommended to them and seemed to be rendered imperative by the facts of the case.

It is the same with the country on a larger scale. Sufficient explanation has not been furnished to reconcile the consumer to his rations. Not only so, but members of the public, who, on the face of it, appear to have been badly treated, have not been made to understand why. Take, for example, the stock-breeding farmers. The most intelligent of them understand the situation, but others do not. We are continually receiving letters from individuals who imagine that the Food Ministry is compassing the ruin of their industry without rhyme or reason. Our suggestion is that means should be taken for explaining to such as these the why and wherefore. The ideal course would be for the Member of Parliament for the constituency to do so to the electors. But since the war very few members have had time to do this, and others have not had the inclination. Decisions of the Food Ministry should also be posted up in public places like the porch of a church or the wall of the town hall. They should be in these times also accompanied by an explanation. The mere order will only produce irritation. Members of the Government appear to assume that publicity is attained when their orders appear among the news of the day. But many people do not look at the newspapers except to search for information about their friends or learn news of the war. Again and again we have noticed that matters which were given even great prominence in the daily papers are absolutely unknown to those for whose ear they were chiefly meant.

It might produce alarm if we stated in full the considerations which induce us to make this appeal. They will be evident to those who look below the surface. Never was the country more in need of wise and tactful leadership than at the present moment. Imagination must be called in to help to an understanding. Here is a generation of people who have been brought up amid a profusion of food. At small cost they could procure an endless variety of eatables in unlimited quantity. They have the welfare of their country at heart and we believe would never grumble at any privation the cause of which was thoroughly understood. An ordinary knowledge of human nature should prevent those in authority from expecting an unquestioning obedience to edicts that are not accompanied by an appeal to the understanding. Government in time of war cannot without grave danger consist only of administration more or less stern. It is the business of those in power not only to maintain law and order, but also to seek for the intelligent and willing support of those ordinances which are necessary even though they be irksome. It is, however, undesirable that paid publicity agents should be responsible. The work of educating the public would most profitably be done by voluntary workers in the locality under the ægis of the local authority.

Our Frontispiece

WE print as a frontispiece to this week's issue a drawing by Francis Dodd, one of the official British artists, of Commodore Godfrey M. Paine, C.B., M.V.O., Fifth Sea Lord and Director of Naval Air Service since 1917. Commodore Paine, who entered the Navy in 1885 and was Commandant of the Central Flying School, Salisbury Plain, from 1912 to 1915, married in 1900 Miss Elizabeth Knowles, daughter of the late Andrew Knowles of Swinton Old Hall

* * It is particularly requested that no permissions to photograph houses, gardens or livestock on behalf of COUNTRY LIFE be granted except when direct application is made from the offices of the paper.

COUNTRY



NOTES

LORD RHONDDA'S summary of the food conditions given to the farmers at Newport on Saturday is by no means discouraging. One of its features was an account of the figures in a re-census of cattle, sheep and pigs taken on December 2nd by the Food Ministry and the Board of Agriculture. The figures are surprisingly good. Dairy cows have increased by 3 per cent. in six months. At the same time milk cows have decreased in number by 5 per cent. and cattle by 15 per cent. Lord Rhondda calls the latter a substantial reduction, but not one that spelt starvation. More cheering is the announcement that the total number of pigs had increased by half a million in six months. Lord Rhondda recognises it to be a duty that we should not deplete our breeding stocks, and says that in Germany they are killing more rapidly than we have ever done. The real stringency arises out of the short supply of bread and wheat, due to the bad harvests in France and Italy. We have had to divert cargoes to these countries, and hence the need for still greater economy.

ON Monday afternoon one of our representatives went a round of a few of the great stores with the view of ascertaining what food could be purchased. These are the shops in which the well-to-do are served, and it appeared useful and interesting to ascertain how they were treated in comparison with the poor customers who form queues at the smaller kind of shop. The result goes to show that in this time of difficulty no advantage rests with the richer class of customer. Taking the stores in the order in which they were visited, Selfridge's had no margarine, no butter, no lard, no cheese, no meat but sheep's heads, a small quantity of bacon at 2s. 4d. a pound for which a long queue was waiting. At Shoolbred's and the Junior Army and Navy neither meat nor provisions were for sale. At the Civil Service, Haymarket, cheese was on offer at 1s. 5d. a pound, cocoa butter at 2s. 2d., but there was no lard and no butter, a fair supply of meat, but the department was closed for general sales. Army and Navy and Army and Navy Auxiliary had nothing—no tea; Civil Service, Bedford Street, nothing.

IT may be argued that the scarcity in these shops is partly due to the serving of regular customers; but, writing from first-hand knowledge, we can say that the supply of regular customers is neither large nor constant. Some benefit is derived from a long-standing connection with the stores, but it has not been able to save households from being deprived of many articles that before the war were considered necessities. Even that advantage will disappear entirely as soon as the rationing system comes into operation. Indeed, the justification of this lies almost wholly in the better distribution that it will ensure. Rich and poor are in the same boat, and, fortunately, the most necessary articles of food are obtainable by both; at least, that is how we read the message from Lord Rhondda on which we have commented above. There is no grumbling on the part of those who clearly apprehend the situation and that it is impossible in present

circumstances that large rations of food should be allotted to one class in preference to another. But this enforces the duty of ministers of the Crown and popular leaders to explain the facts to all who are in doubt about them. Let the people understand, and it may be confidently assumed that they will meet the crisis with steadfastness and courage.

AN agricultural correspondent who understands farming makes a criticism that is well worth drawing attention to, even though it be only for the sake of correction. If he misunderstands the bearing of the figures produced by Professor Middleton in his famous pamphlet, it is certain that others will do so as well. Our correspondent points out that the average farm produce of one hundred acres of cultivated land, though it produces less bulk in Great Britain than in Germany, nevertheless pays the farmer better. On a pre-war valuation applied alike to the German and to the British statistics he shows that the total value of the crops of one hundred acres in the former country is £1,126, whereas in the latter it is £2,254, the difference in our favour being caused mainly by the fact that we sell £870 worth of milk from one hundred acres in comparison with the £308 of our rival. But Mr. Middleton's point was not this. It was that a greater bulk of food was produced, and he measured the food in calories. What our correspondent has omitted to take into account is that in war-time especially the money value of a crop is of less consequence than its feeding value. No one could feed even forty-five men simply because they had a sum of £2,254 in their pockets. Money is only valuable for what it will buy, and therefore, though the farmer's pocket might be fuller if he pursued the old policy, the country will be better off if he takes a leaf out of Germany's book and produces more food.

TO THE LITTLE CREATURES.

How I love you Little Creatures
With your quaint and dainty features!
Little claws and little beaks,
Tiny chirrups, tinier squeaks,
Feather coats and furry breeches,
Not a hint of any stitches,
Not a buttonhole or darn,
Always tidy, always warm.
Here, a pack of little elves
Running on the larder shelves,
Prying whiskers, soft as silk,
Paws and faces in the milk,
Then, upon the honeysuckle
Swings a wren with merry chuckle,
Robin, hopping on the lawn,
I can see where you have torn
Tiny insect from its mother,
Creeping sister from her brother,
I can hear you in the ivy
Chatting to a brood so lively,
Stuffing every yellow beak
Far too full for it to speak.
How I love you, Little Creatures,
With your quaint and dainty features!

ANNE F. BROWN.

A USEFUL supplement may be suggested to the leading article which appears in to-day's issue. The suggestion made in it is that in order to carry the sympathy of the country with the Government in the stern fight against food scarcity on which we are entering it is desirable that the situation should be clearly and fully explained to consumers, not all of whom read the newspapers or are familiar with the literature sent out from the Food Ministry. At the same time, it would help greatly if the Food Controller would have a few recipes of a good, simple, and attractive character printed and hung up in the kitchens where meals are prepared. They should deal in every case with foods readily available, particularly with the two essentials, potatoes and wheat. It is of little use to teach meat cookery at a time when meat is a vanishing quantity. But if these instructions were set forth in plain simple language and printed it would conduce very much to economy in cooking. Food Controllers and others must remember that, in spite of the large circulation of so many newspapers, there is a considerable portion of the population which never looks at things like these in the Press, and yet would be able to profit by them if they existed in a handy form.

SURPRISE and dissatisfaction are being freely expressed in seaport towns at the maximum prices which the Food Controller has assigned to fish. In nearly every case these are very considerably above the ordinary retail charges. Such prices as 3s. 3d. a pound for brill, halibut and turbot make them into a luxury at once—a luxury which only the rich can afford. Salmon at 4s. a pound smoked cod and smoked haddock at 2s. a pound, go into the same category. But, indeed, the same comment might be applied to every article in the list, including the humble herring. Perhaps the Food Controller may argue that these prices are open to variation according to locality. Food Control Committees may change them for any area so long as they do not exceed the maximum. But this loses sight of the well understood fact that a maximum price for anything invariably tends to become a minimum. Fishmongers both in town and country are looking to a very considerable contraction of their trade, and the poor consumer, at any rate, has read the list with despair.

A FAMOUS and well known figure has passed away in the person of Canon Greenwell, who has been a familiar and friend of several generations. In no other contemporary brain was there stored such a wealth of antiquarian lore, of northern history, of knowledge of the great families of the North. Not long ago the Editor of the "History of Northumberland" was expatiating to the writer on the invaluable and inexhaustible help which he had obtained from Canon Greenwell. In addition to being a great traveller, collector and connoisseur, he was also a notable fisherman. "Greenwell's Glory" is a lure dear even at this day to the angler in Cheviot streams. Those who are followers of Father Izaak will probably attribute the more than patriarchal length of days achieved by the Canon to his attention to fishing long after he had passed his ninetieth year. With the aid of a nurse and an attendant he was still at ninety-five capable of obtaining a fine basket of fish from one of the famous streams within motoring distance. His old age, serene and bright, was illumined by the affection of a large circle of friends who delighted in the stories which flowed with perennial freshness from a memory which remained vivid to the last. Had he lived for three years longer, Canon Greenwell would have been a centenarian.

EXCEPTIONAL interest is attached at this moment to Commodore Godfrey Paine, whose portrait is shown on our opening page this week. He is the Naval member of the Air Board and, therefore, one of the chief protagonists in the keen and deadly game which continually goes on between aggressive German aircraft and British defence. It will be admitted that the enemy has been able to make extremely little use of the fine moonlight nights of December and January. Since Christmas week a very great number of warnings have been issued, each of which meant that a squadron of hostile aeroplanes was attempting to get into this country. At the time of writing they have scored one success—that on Monday night—against a previously unbroken succession of defeats. The contest may be likened to the silent fight for position between two great wrestlers. Only the expert knows the various assaulting devices and the counterfoils by which they are baulked, but the general public, which judges by results, has shown itself aware and grateful. They know that unsleeping watch is kept and, considering the freedom and immunity with which our aeroplanes are attacking fortified places in the Rhineland, they have every reason to be proud of the success with which the German offensive has been withstood, notwithstanding the serious raids of the present week.

NO speaker at the present moment is entitled to a more sympathetic hearing than the soldier-statesman, General Smuts. He proved in the conduct of the campaign in East Africa his military ability, and his statesmanship has been apparent in every speech made during his residence in England. There should then be no need to emphasise the importance of the lecture he delivered the other night on the German aims in tropical Africa. In another part of the paper it is shown that the great military writer in Germany, Count von Freytag-Loringhoven, in his "Deductions from the World War," is looking steadily forward to another and more successful effort of his country to attain military domination. General Smuts in his lecture showed in detail what this meant as regards Africa. He gave chapter and verse for the conclusions at which he had arrived, and no sane thinker will fail to acknowledge the accuracy and significance of his diagnosis. German ambition in East Africa had the

same grandiose characteristics as the rest of her world programme.

A VERY clear distinction was drawn by the speaker between the Teutonic and the Anglo-Saxon conception of colonies. We have never regarded the outposts of Empire from a military point of view, and have carefully abstained from turning the natives into soldiers of the Empire. Germany has pursued a policy exactly opposite to this. It is based not on colonisation in our meaning of the word, but on far-reaching conceptions of world politics. Her great aim is to secure strategic possessions for exercising power in the future. Her ultimate object in Africa, as stated by her leaders before the war, was to form a great Central African Empire including, not only her colonies, but also those of England, France, Belgium and Portugal—at any rate, such of them as lie south of the Sahara and Lake Chad and north of the Zambesi River. In this way she hoped to secure a dominating position in regard to India. Of the natives it was her object to form soldiers to man the great army planted on the flank of Asia. Roughly speaking, these were the main lines of the exposition, and, taken with the context, they show why Great Britain may well hesitate before acceding to the German demand that the lost colonies should be restored.

THE JESTER.

I dreamt a jester came to town,
And what knew he of pain, of strife?
"Now bless the Master, bless his wife:
Pray toss a penny down!"

"Who'll buy my quips? Who'll buy my spells?"
Here's Mirth, poor fool, to be your guest,
To cut a caper, crack a jest—
Heigho! for cap and bells!

"Heigho for Mirth! Take heart of grace,
And hide your tears for shame, for shame!"
Thus sang that clown who had no name,
Outside my dwelling-place.

. . . A dream, a dream! I woke, as you,
Fists drumming on my bedroom door,
Called me a dozen times, or more—
The way some children do!

No cap, no bells! Yet in you came,
To bid me, by your eager face:
"Sing hey! for Mirth; take heart of grace,
And hide your tears for shame!"

JOYCE COBB.

MAXIMILIAN HARDEN, most original and most independent of enemy journalists, has, in the latest issue of *Zukunft*, gone a long way towards endorsing the views of the Entente as set forth by President Wilson and Mr. Lloyd George. "If it appears to our finer feelings," is one of his sentences, "that what took place in 1871 was wrong, then it must be reconsidered and remedied." This is a plain statement that he endorses the demand that Alsace-Lorraine should be given back to France. Again he lectures his countrymen because they went to Brest-Litovsk in the manner of conquerors. They asked Russia to make suicide of herself, and, as usual, did not seem to have dreamed that Trotsky might object to this. If there had been anything real in the German professions of wishing for peace with Russia on the programme of no annexations and no indemnities, their best plan would have been to adopt a friendly and conciliatory attitude in order to show that they really had the intention of working for a settlement that would be lasting and leave no sore behind it. Instead of that, the military representative hector and rattled his sabre, and, whatever may be the outcome of the Conference, the cause of peace has made no real advance.

OUR readers will learn with interest that the drawing "Inverness Copse," by Lieutenant Paul Nash, which was reproduced, by permission of H.M. Government, in our issue of January 19th, has been purchased, among other of Mr. Nash's drawings, for the Imperial War Museum. Mr. Nash was recently appointed one of the official British artists at the front, and some of his work may be seen just now in London at the exhibition of the Senefelder Club at the Leicester Galleries.

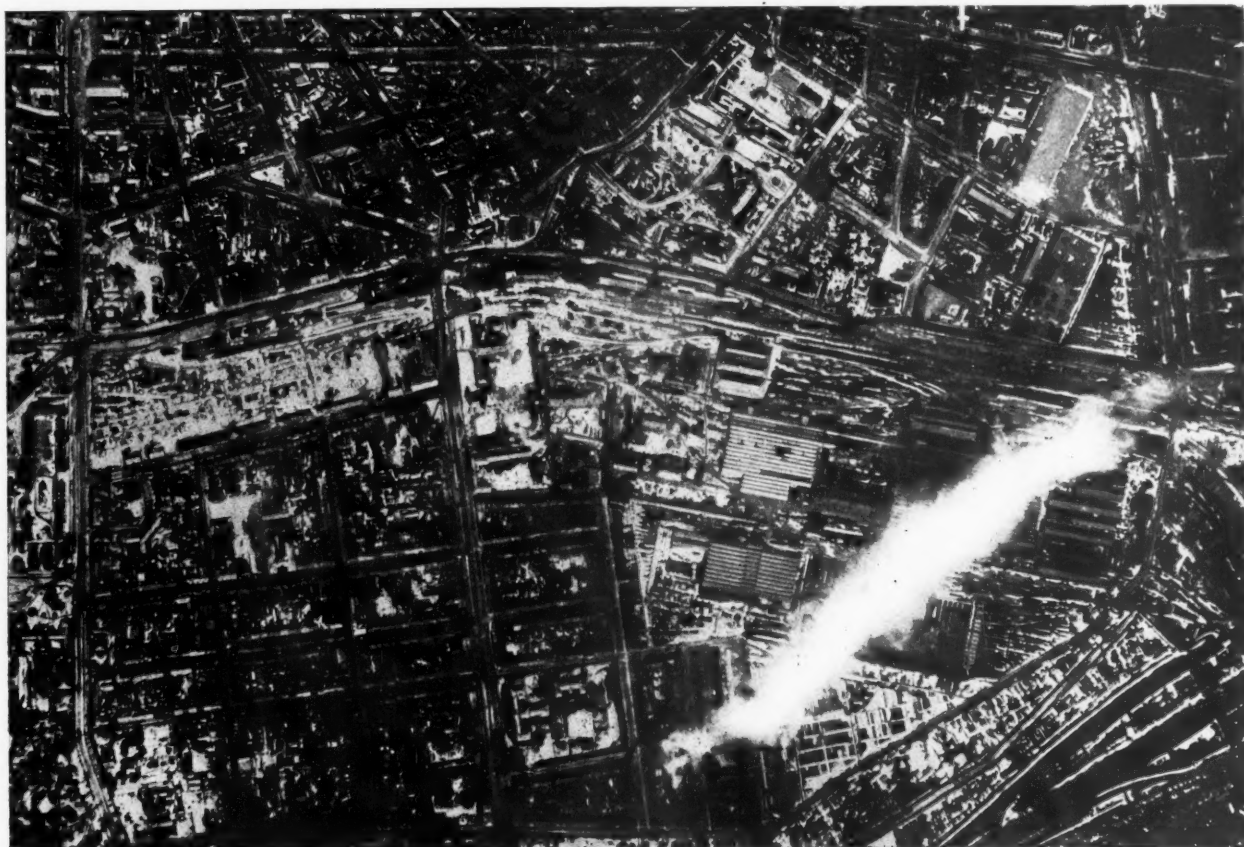
WILL AIRCRAFT END THE WAR?



BURBACH: TAKEN DURING THE RAID ON OCTOBER 17, 1917.

DURING the course of the first Somme offensive it came to be a widely held belief that the end of the Great War would be fought in the air. A few adepts and enthusiasts in flying, such as Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, thought so from the beginning of hostilities, but the extraordinary development of British and French aggressive aviation in the advance convinced crowds of people who had not before realised what was likely to take place. From the time of their entry into war the Americans had held firmly to this conviction, and they have

made more gigantic preparations for that conclusion than any other Power. It would almost appear that we are beginning to witness the culmination that has been long anticipated. Last week-end had an unparalleled history of aerial attacks. On every British front our flying men were unusually active and no fewer than thirty-two enemy aircraft were brought down; seventeen on the Western Front, five in Italy, two in Belgium and one in Macedonia. That makes twenty-five, and seven more brought down by French gunfire make the total of thirty-two. Probably we shall look upon this



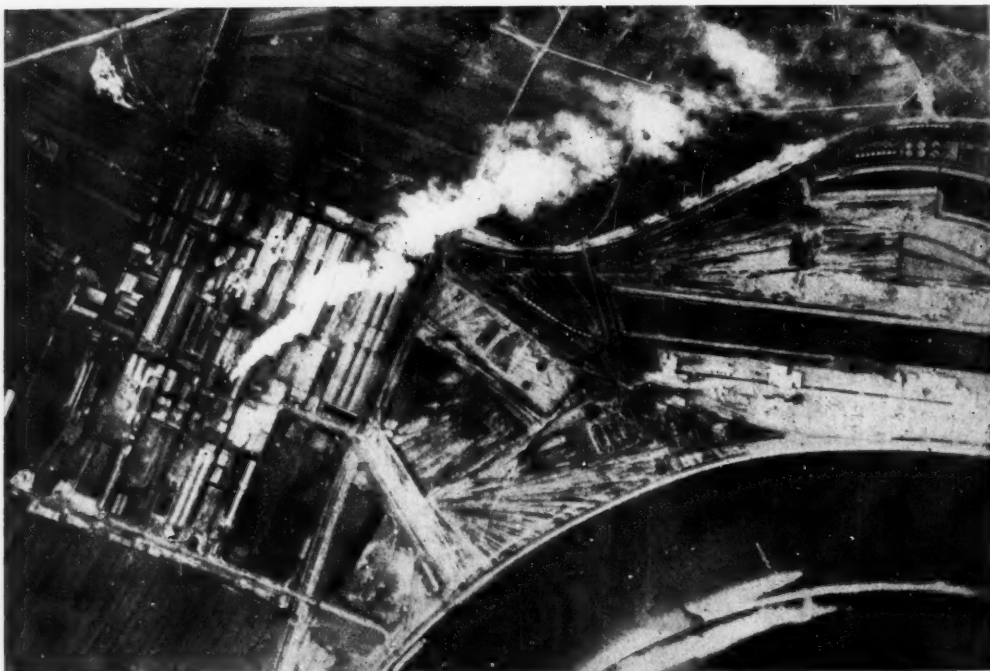
KARLSRUHE: TAKEN DURING THE RAID ON JANUARY 14, 1918.

Official photographs: Crown copyright.

as comparatively insignificant as soon as the United States Army gets to work. They have built an enormous number of aeroplanes and will begin the war in the firm belief that by this means they will bring it to a conclusion. So far our air offensive has been directed exclusively against places of military importance. There has been no bombing of

and "Give us peace." Before that—that is to say, after the first raid—they had petitioned the Government either to afford them adequate protection or to cease the bombardment of defenceless English towns. In some measure, therefore, they appear to have concluded that these raids are reprisals. They are in reality nothing of the kind. Our attention has

been directed to a railway station, camps, billets, aerodromes, and munition factories. Treves, which was visited on Saturday, has recently been made the headquarters of the Crown Prince and becomes therefore a legitimate object of attack. The Germans never have omitted to try for our headquarters in France when they had the chance, and there has been no question of the legitimacy of that kind of warfare. One can foresee that the state of things will become much more serious for German towns as the war advances. No doubt they hope to avert this by the gigantic offensive which they are meditating, and they evidently hope to destroy the American aeroplanes on their way across the Atlantic. Mr. Baker, the American Secretary of State for War, in his last weekly review, warned the people that the Germans were preparing a great submarine offensive against the American lines of communication with France. He attributed the decrease in the number of allied merchantmen sunk by submarine to the withdrawal of these vessels for the approaching sea offensive. The statesmen of the United States have been able to inform themselves very accurately of the intention of the Huns, and Mr. Baker is probably speaking with good knowledge when he says that during the last fortnight enemy submarines have been recalled to their home ports to be refitted, and that his countrymen have to look forward to what



LUDWIGSHAFEN, TAKEN DURING THE RAID ON DECEMBER 24, 1917.



MANNHEIM, TAKEN DURING THE RAID ON DECEMBER 24, 1917.

Official photographs: Crown copyright.

open towns like that to which the people of this country have been exposed. Mannheim, which has been twice visited, possesses an aerodrome and is for all practical purposes a place of arms. This did not at all prevent the inhabitants from being seized with terror and panic. We are told that as the airmen departed, they shouted, "Down with the war,"

will probably be the most formidable submarine offensive yet attempted. But an old saying is that forewarned is forearmed. Americans thoroughly understand what dangers they will have to face in bringing the troops from across the Atlantic, and the problem of dealing with submarines in deep water is not likely to prove impossible of solution.

ST. CUTHBERT'S DUCK

By R. FORTUNE, F.Z.S.



EIDER DUCK LEADING HER BROOD THROUGH A CROWD OF GUILLEMOTS.

ST. CUTHBERT was a popular Northumberland saint who in A.D. 676 retired from the society of his fellow-men to the solitude of the Farne Island, where he died, a victim to his own austerities, in A.D. 687. According to monastic histories he performed some most wonderful miracles during his lifetime, and was renowned far and wide for his piety and holiness. During his residence on the Farne he took the birds of the islands under his special protection and taught them gentleness and confidence. To the eider ducks he is said to have paid more than ordinary attention. Tradition says that the tameness acquired by the birds in that age has never really left them, but has been continued down to the present time. Eiders are known even now in this district as St. Cuthbert's ducks, and it is well known that they are in the breeding season very tame and confiding.

One of the monastic histories relates that a certain decadent monk during the absence of the Saint on the mainland,

hankering after the fleshpots, killed a duck, cooked and ate her, afterwards throwing the remains over the cliff into the sea, so that no evidences of his backsliding should be forthcoming. He, however, reckoned without the unseen powers; for when St. Cuthbert returned he found at the doorway of his oratory a neatly-folded parcel containing all the remains of the duck which had been scattered on the sea. Confronted with this damning evidence, the monk confessed his fault and was severely punished.

There is in the Life of Bartholomew ("Donovan's Middle Ages," Vol. IV, page 239) a very excellent and graphic description of these birds. "Some hatch their eggs close

by the altar and nobody presumes to hurt them, or even touch their eggs without permission. With their mates they seek their sustenance on the deep. The young, as soon as hatched, follow their mothers; and when once they have swum over their hereditary waves, they never return to the nest; the mothers,



EIDERS: DRAKES AND DUCKS.

too, forget all their recent tameness and recover their wildness with their genial element."

The Farne Islands are the most southerly breeding place of the eider duck and practically the only one in England; for, with perhaps the exception of one or two pairs breeding on the mainland, they do not nest elsewhere south of the Border. Many years ago a few nested on Coquet Island, but have not done so since the erection of the lighthouse in 1841.

On the Farnes their numbers have varied at different periods; at one time, owing to persecution, they had decreased so much that only a few pairs were to be found nesting; but, thanks to the protection now afforded them, they have again become very numerous. On my last visit I counted over 150 ducks and drakes on the sea in one little bay, and there were many more ducks on the rocks near by.

In the month of April the eiders begin to collect in little flocks on the shores of the mainland, and early in May they cross over to the islands to commence house-keeping, their winter having been passed on the deeper water.

The nests are found on practically all the islands and in every conceivable situation that they afford—among the rocks in the open, on the sand and shingle beds, among the short vegetation, and on one island, where there is a thick and rather tall growth of vegetation, they are found in numbers right in the midst of it; and if for any purpose one crosses this belt, great care must be exercised, for it is difficult to see the numerous nests hidden in the dense growth.

The nest is composed of dry grasses, with a lining of down, and from four to five eggs are usually laid. There is very little lining at first, but as incubation proceeds the duck plucks the down from her breast until the eggs are surrounded by a very thick and luxuriant bed of it. This down is not, as is generally supposed, white, but is of a smoky

leaves she squirts a liquid excrement of a brownish colour over them. Eggs are often found with darkish, greasy-looking blotches, the result of this excrement drying upon them. She is a very close sitter, and does not fly far when disturbed, appearing to have some difficulty in getting on the wing when rising from the nest, flying away very clumsily with loud flapping, keeping close to the ground, and making her way direct to the sea, where she is immediately joined by her mate. When on the wing properly they appear huge and somewhat heavy; nevertheless, they fly easily along. Some ducks when disturbed will, however, only shuffle away to a spot near by, and will squat there until the intruder leaves the vicinity of the nest.

The drake in the breeding season rarely, if ever, comes on land, though I have occasionally seen one basking on an outlying rock. The contrast in the plumage of the sexes in the breeding season is most striking. They are heavily built birds, weighing about 6lb., the duck especially giving one the impression of a heavily laden Dutch barge. She is

very sober in appearance, being clothed in an inconspicuous garb of brown and grey. The drake is most conspicuous, having a plumage of dazzling white and velvety black, with a patch of exquisite pale green (which comes out dark in a photograph) on the back of the neck. As the breeding season wanes this brilliant dress is lost and he assumes one much more sober in hue, and then closely resembles the duck in appearance. Full plumage and maturity are not attained until about the third year. During the nesting season a number of ducks can always be seen basking and resting on the rocks close to the edge of the sea. I fancy that a number of these birds must be immature and non-breeding.

When the flocks are on the sea there arises from them a peculiar and somewhat melancholy moaning cry, a very



EIDERS: DUCK JUST EMERGED FROM UNDER WATER.



EIDER DRAKE IN FULL BREEDING PLUMAGE.

brown colour, with pale spots. It is of extraordinary elasticity, and a hatful can be easily compressed into the palm of one's hand. Mr. J. H. Gurney, I remember, once experimented with this, and found that a portion weighing less than a quarter of an ounce could be expanded into a space of 250 cubic inches. The eggs are green in colour, and on the Farnes five is the usual clutch, but nests are found with as few as two. They have been found containing ten, fourteen and nineteen eggs, but in these cases two or more ducks have for some unnecessary reason used the same nest. When the duck leaves the nest she carefully covers the eggs with down or grasses, otherwise the black-back gulls, the dominant birds of the islands, would speedily commandeer them. If the duck is startled off them suddenly, as she



EIDER DUCK ON NEST.

weird sound. It is difficult to put the cry of birds into words, but, as near as I can, it is expressed by "Ah-woo-o, ah-woo-oo-oo-o," and so on. When uttering it the bird tosses up its head right on to its back, with the bill pointing directly upwards, often rising with its breast right out of the water. Another note is a "whee-whee-whee," and when the duck is calling her young she does so with a soft kind of croak.

On the sea they sit very deeply, and when diving do not raise themselves from the water, but go direct underneath, with hardly a ripple showing. Many ducks are excessively tame when nesting, and will allow a very close approach, even the erection of a stand camera not being sufficient to cause alarm, and it is not uncommon to find

birds sufficiently confiding to permit of being stroked when on the nest. A particularly tame bird of this class nested regularly for a number of years close to the keeper's house on the Brownsman.

The young when hatched are almost black; they are hardy little mites and make direct to the sea with their mother, breasting through the roughest waves or surf. One occasionally sees a pretty sight—a duck swimming along with her brood on her back. Generally, however, they follow her in a short line, one behind the other. If access to the water is over a cliff twenty, thirty or more feet high, it is no obstacle, the young tumble over it in a most unconcerned way, dropping into the sea or on to the rocks below without sustaining the slightest hurt.

Not infrequently a duck will lay an egg in the nest of a gull. When it is hatched it causes both anxiety and trouble, as the following story will show. A young eider was hatched in the nest of a herring-gull, and shortly after making its appearance into the world it started making a bee-line to the sea. The gull did not understand this at all, and tried unsuccessfully to head it off. After repeated attempts it gave up the struggle, and, taking the young eider in its bill, promptly swallowed it. Should a duckling get stranded

in a crack in the rocks, as they sometimes do, the ever-watchful gulls speedily end its career.

There seems always to be a good deal of wastage among the eggs, as nests, especially those in the open, are frequently deserted—why, I cannot exactly make out. On one sandy stretch in the middle of a colony of terns, almost every season may be seen six or seven deserted nests with the eggs half buried in the sand. I have often wondered if the terns have anything to do with it. I think it is possible they have, as the following incident will show. I once watched a duck that had been disturbed by visitors to the island. She had left her nest and flapped her way direct to the sea, which was only twenty or thirty yards away. When the visitors left she was anxious to return, and endeavoured to do so by walking out of the sea over the sandbank to the pebble beach where her nest was placed. Unfortunately, the nest was surrounded by a colony of Arctic terns, and every time she approached she was ruthlessly mobbed by the terns. She retreated many times, only to return again for a fresh effort, but as long as I had her under observation she did not get back to the nest. It gave me the impression that if any duck is silly enough to place her nest in the middle of an uneasy crowd of terns, the only time for her to leave it with a certainty of being able to return safely is during the night-time.

THE TASK OF THE FOOD PRODUCERS

IT is universally understood that the shortage of food in this country is likely to reach its maximum in early July. An attempt may be made to spread the bread ration over that period and may be successful. If so, it will be only because every possible material for diluting the flour has been adopted. The scarcity to be met in the first week of July is the reason for that urgency to grow early potatoes which we, along with others, have insisted upon. The old stock of potatoes will be exhausted and even in ordinary times there are not enough early potatoes grown to meet the consumption. That, indeed, is controlled normally by the price. Poor people cannot afford to pay what is demanded for young potatoes at that time of the year. If they could, the ordinary production would not be enough to go round. Therefore it is urged very earnestly that all who have suitable ground at their disposal should grow early or second early potatoes that will be fit for consumption in the first week of July. The advice may be taken to heart by every allotment holder, everybody who has come into the occupancy of a cultivable plot. But those who look at the matter from a national point of view cannot believe that the allotment holders, numerous as they are and much as their numbers have increased since last year, will be able to grow enough to meet the town demand. Suppose that instead of 750,000, as there were last year, 1,000,000 handled the spade this year, it is probably a liberal estimate that the average area cultivated by each would not exceed four rods, even if it were as much as that. Out of that plot potatoes should be grown sufficient to last a family over the winter months, and, in addition, the other vegetables necessary to the house should be produced, such as cabbages, carrots, onions, spinach, beet and the rest. For this reason, those responsible for the food production in the country would make a great mistake if they expected the allotment holders or gardeners to contribute any large proportion of the potatoes that will be needed. The men upon whom the greatest reliance is to be placed are the large farmers in Lincolnshire, Ayrshire and other favourable districts who for years past have been in the habit of growing second earlies for the town markets. It will be to their interest to extend the scheme of cultivation this year, but although they are great adepts at the craft and have the incentives not only of patriotism, but of personal interest, to set as many potatoes as they can, it is still doubtful if they will be able to supply the demand of the millions of households that, as a rule, abstain from purchasing the young and dear potatoes. We hope they will go a long way towards achieving this end and throughout the country every farmer who is suitably placed for this kind of cultivation ought to contribute his quota to the general supply. Even if that be done, it is doubtful if there will be sufficient food. That is where the gardener can come in. The main crops on a farm cannot easily be hurried to a harvest. There is a time for sowing them and a time for the ingathering, which have been determined not by the wants of the consumers, but by the nature of the climate, which is unchangeable. Therefore, little help

can be expected for meeting the crisis, except by the production of these second early potatoes. The matter is so important that perhaps we may be forgiven for urging upon those who have never done this kind of thing before to try their best. The first thing is shelter. No land can be expected to produce potatoes if it is exposed to the colder winds, particularly those from the north and the east. Therefore, a well-sheltered field or a strip of land beside a hedge which protects from the north is the ideal situation. A clever gardener can, of course, produce these conditions at will. He may plant early peas or early beans that will constitute an efficient windbreak, and while his main shelter will be from the north, he will find it easy to have protection also from the cutting east. The second—some would say the greatest condition of all—is a fine tilth. The provident husbandman has long looked forward to that and ploughed his land or dug it in the autumn, leaving it in ridges during the frost and snow of winter. Constantly turning over the soil will produce the desired result if it be done in dry weather. The third condition is adequate manuring. Farmyard manure remains as it ever has been, the most effective with potatoes, but the expert is accustomed to supplement it with the use of such artificials as superphosphates and basic slag. These things being attended to, a free use of the hoe will do the rest. We hope a very determined effort will be made on these lines to beat all previous records in the way of growing early potatoes. It may be that sufficient will be produced to meet the circumstances, but all crops depend to some extent on weather and labour, so that it will only be prudent on the part of the country to abstain from trusting to one thing only and urge that gardeners should do their utmost to supplement the work of the farmers. Potatoes may be the most important, but they are not the only food product that can be put on the table in June or July. Others are cabbages of various sorts, onions, broad beans, carrots and cauliflowers. Most of these vegetables can be brought forward very easily. Cauliflowers, for instance, if sown under glass or even in a sunny, sheltered corner and pricked out at an early stage of growth can be brought to table in June even by an indifferent gardener. The main thing is to keep them going all the time, as the plant is a strong feeder and can scarcely receive too much manure. Broad beans, again, can be hurried with great advantage by being sown in plots or boxes which are kept from the cold winds and frosts till the time comes for planting them out, when it will be found that they are several weeks in advance of those sown without protection, some of which in April will be just pushing their first fronds through the earth. Plenty of digging and plenty of manure are, however, essentials to success. Early vegetables are not to be procured from a badly cultivated or exhausted soil. Nearly all the cabbage tribe can be brought forward very quickly with the aid of a dressing of nitrate of soda. On heavy land it is not easy to get carrots forward equally well, although it can be done even with them with the help of shelter and deep digging. On soils inclined to the light side, especially

those that are sandy, it is a very easy matter to have delicious stubby little carrots ready in any quantity in June, when potatoes are not available and bread is sure to be getting scarce. Of onions the same thing may be said. Growers should differentiate between onions that they hope to grow into large bulbs and those that they desire to get quickly fit for pulling. Early turnips, again, can be placed on the table long before the first potatoes are ready. By the cultivation of these plants the gardener may supplement the food supply of the country at a most opportune moment. What he has to remember is that in the garden this year there cannot possibly be too much of a good thing. At other times he has to calculate against the possibility of all his

cauliflowers becoming ready to eat at the same time, with the too common result that a great many are allowed to run to seed and are wasted. Let him remember that there is a town population to feed, and he will not care how many ripen at the same moment.

In order to make these supplies fully available it would be easy to negotiate some rough form of co-operation. If only a fair number of growers belonging to the same locality have each a consignment to send to market, the total will be large enough to render the journey worth while. That is to say, the cost of transport works out very much more cheaply when the carrier, whoever he be, has a large amount to deal with.

NEED FOR A FERTILISERS POLICY

INCREASED fertilisation of the soil is the first step towards that increased food production which is an essential part of our future national policy. Before the war about one and a half million tons of artificial fertilisers were used annually on the soil of the United Kingdom, but in proportion to the area under crop the total consumption was smaller than that of Germany, Belgium or Denmark. To provide for the additional 3,600,000 acres which must be brought under the plough next year, if not this year, and to manure adequately the existing arable and grass, another million tons are required if we are to get the maximum production which is economically profitable.

To induce the farmer to put more into the land he must be assured that he has a reasonable certainty of getting more out of it. A belief in the permanence of existing or known conditions is the foundation of all agricultural prosperity. The Corn Production Act has given to the farmer a knowledge that the price of his cereal produce will not fall below a reasonable figure, that his rent will not be raised against him, and that his wages bill will at least be controlled. In one department of farming, then, the State has already recognised that the cultivator of the soil must be guarded against unduly low prices, and, if increased food production at home is to be the policy of the future, the principle must be extended to give the farmer the sure and certain hope that the returns from his crops will pay for larger and more extensive applications of manures.

The Corn Production Act recognises, however, that the farmer is merely the trustee of the national soil, and that if the State on the one hand holds out the prospect of a moderate return for his labour, it has a right to require him to cultivate his land in accordance with the most enlightened experiences of modern farming. The powers conferred by the Act can be used to enforce the adequate use of fertilisers, but it is from the recognition of the principle rather than from the active interference of the State in the actual control of cultivation that we may expect in the future a wider and more universal employment of fertilisers.

Supply must keep pace with the demand. The manufacture of explosives has led to so enormous a development of the sulphuric acid industry and the employment of the surplus acid which will exist on the closing down of the great explosive factories presents a serious problem of reconstruction. Fortunately a partial solution lies in the use of sulphuric acid in the manufacture of superphosphate and sulphate of ammonia, two industries which between them accounted before the war for about 60 per cent. of the total output of acid. Peace will place at our disposal plant producing 650,000 tons of acid per annum, and the employment of 300,000 tons in the manufacture of superphosphate would enable us to double our production of that fertiliser. There is, therefore, a golden opportunity to promote food production and at the same time to save the sulphuric acid trade from the chaos of over-production.

To take advantage of the opportunity State action is necessary. Arrangements made in advance for the importation immediately on the close of the war of large quantities of phosphate rock would provide a means of utilising at once the acid which will be released from the manufacture of explosives. It is obvious that it is only by State action that the necessary supplies will be forthcoming, as the uncertainty as to future prices and the competition for freights will prevent private enterprise from purchasing to more than a very moderate extent. The phosphate rock deposits, moreover, are mainly under the control of Allied countries. As a war measure the importation of phosphate rock is already controlled by the Ministry of Munitions, so that what is required is the extension of an existing organisation as a policy of peace.

The use of sulphuric acid in fertiliser manufacture extends also to sulphate of ammonia. The output might be extended by the introduction on a commercial scale of the synthetic manufacture of sulphate of ammonia which has been so successful in Germany. Before the war Germany imported 750,000 tons of nitrate of soda from Chili, and although this enormous supply has been cut off, she is believed to have replaced it by a rapid

extension of the manufacture of ammonia from atmospheric nitrogen. In Great Britain the supply of nitrate of soda for agricultural purposes has ceased owing to its being required for explosives, and its place has been taken agriculturally by sulphate of ammonia. Thus the home consumption has grown from 60,000 tons per annum to 150,000 tons last season, and promises to reach 240,000 tons in the current year.

Another home produced fertiliser is basic slag, but this is also a by-product, the output of which is limited. To meet the home demand at the present time the production is being brought up to 500,000 tons, but this represents the maximum production which will be possible in the future, although some 900,000 tons could doubtless usefully be employed if it were available. Basic slag is, however, a phosphatic fertiliser which can be replaced by superphosphate, and the deficiency in the supply of slag affords another reason for increasing the production of superphosphate.

From this review of the possibilities of supply it may be gathered that there is no inherent difficulty in meeting from home resources the demand for fertilisers which would result from a vigorous agricultural policy. Such a development in production can only be attained by the most hearty co-operation between the State and the representatives of the great industries involved. The enormous munition factories which have been erected for the war have made the Government the largest producer of sulphuric acid in the country, and the Government, together with all the other acid makers, must co-ordinate their efforts to utilise to the national advantage the surplus acid production. Unwise competition injurious to the industry as a whole must necessarily result from unrestricted private enterprise, but it is not too much to hope that a powerful association of both acid and fertiliser makers, if formed in time, might, under guidance from the Board of Agriculture, agree on a policy of voluntary action which, while protecting trade interests, would not lose sight of the larger national issues involved.

Another fertiliser industry which is capable of development in this country is the production of potash from various sources, and especially from the flue dust from blast furnaces. Formerly we imported annually from Germany some 22,000 tons of pure potash, and the possible production from blast furnaces may reach 15,000 tons or more. If this proves to be the case, we shall be well on our way to being self-supporting in this respect. The establishment of the industry on a large scale must necessarily depend on the commercial results obtained, but a factory is now being erected by the Ministry of Munitions to provide without loss of time for the supply of potash both for agricultural and other purposes. If the potato production now reached is maintained or even increased when the industrial use of the potato for alcohol, etc., is developed, and if the great efforts now being made to increase flax production are successful and continuous, the demand for potash may well be doubled.

No less important than supply are methods of distribution, and the most valuable factor in distribution is the fixing of a uniform price. In the case of both sulphate of ammonia and superphosphate a flat rate of sale delivered to the farmers has been fixed by the Government, with results which suggest that the system is one which is beneficial both to the maker and the farmer.

To sum up: Food production is the dominant factor of our future agricultural policy. To cultivate more land and secure larger crops increased quantities of fertilisers must be employed. The farmer must be induced to manure more heavily by the assurance of adequate profits, by exhortation and precept, and, if necessary, by State action requiring him to cultivate his land to the fullest extent in the national interest. The State for its part must by foresight and guidance build up the fertiliser industries so that they can produce sufficient to meet the maximum requirements of agriculture. The termination of the war will provide an unexampled means of accomplishing this by affording an opportunity of organising the various allied trades to co-operate in solving the post-war problems in a manner which will be for their benefit and to the advantage of national agriculture.

RACK SHEDS AND CORN CROPPING

I HAVE received a letter from Messrs. Newall and Arnott of Ongar, Essex, dealing with the details of labour required in connection with the handling of various farm crops. As that part of it which refers to corn growing appears to have close relation to the objects of rack sheds as dealt with in last week's COUNTRY LIFE, namely, saving the grain crop, I publish it herewith. The saving of the vast amount of labour now expended in the growing and saving of a grain crop is a matter of the greatest importance. Other portions of the letter referred to will be dealt with in detail later, as they raise equally interesting considerations in regard to other farm crops. The extract reads as follows:

"The corn cropping machinery in particular seems to require special attention, as this crop now is, and should continue to be, the most important crop grown over a considerable portion of the British Isles.

"It seems to us that not only might machinery be improved so as to save labour while working on existing lines, but the whole procedure of dealing with the grain crop might be altered with advantage in conjunction with the employment of new machinery.

"At the present time there are no less than thirteen important and distinct operations necessary to the production of the grain crop in form suitable for human consumption, namely, dunging, ploughing, cultivating, harrowing, seeding, rolling, manuring with artificials, reaping and binding, stooking, carrying, stacking, thatching and thrashing, dressing and bagging. The straw in addition has to be stacked, also tied for sale or for carrying to the stock.

"As to thatching, we should be glad to receive figures which are the result of actual experience as to the length of time that galvanised iron sheets, larch poles (creosoted and uncreosoted) and rolled iron posts bedded in concrete will last.

"Such figures would enable us to decide whether Dutch barns and other permanent forms of crop protection are or are not economies which the landlord might provide at an extra rental which the tenant could profitably pay."

This lengthy list of operations hitherto considered to be necessary in connection with a grain crop affords ample scope for thought and for ingenuity in regard to means to economise in labour and time, and any suggestions from readers tending to secure these aims will be welcome.

The first operation, dunging, is a very slow one, taking much time of both horses and men unless an up-to-date mechanical manure distributor is used. This saves the hand labour of spreading, but as the manure distributor disposes of its load so quickly the loaders have little rest and the job is a most strenuous one. To supplement the existing manure distributors some form of mechanical loader is required. Existing machinery allows of rapid distribution of artificial manures.

Ploughing, cultivating, harrowing, seeding and rolling can all now be carried out with the aid of motor power if suitable types of machines are selected. This new factor will revolutionise the whole farming programme and reduce the horses and labour necessary. The speed with which motor power enables work to be done also enables the farmer to take full advantage of favourable weather and soil conditions, and minimises the risks of loss from bad weather.

Stooking has been so far entirely a hand operation, though the fitting of a "bundle carrier" to the binder renders valuable assistance, as this dumps several sheaves together instead of singly, as is done by machines not so fitted. I have had the plans forwarded to me of one machine which not only groups, but properly stooks the sheaves. The machine has now been constructed, and is waiting for next harvest-time to demonstrate its capabilities.

Another machine which is badly wanted is one for loading the sheaves on to the wagon when carrying, as this is a slow and laborious job for manual labour.

If the use of rack sheds for drying the sheaves taken direct from the binder should prove to be a practical proposition, valuable time would be saved in the way of getting the field clear for ploughing again, but the labour of stooking is replaced by the labour of racking the sheaves, and from this point of view I cannot see much gain. The two real advantages appear to be in freeing the land of the crop and in saving the crop in better condition, and these

advantages might be well worth the expense of the shed. I notice in the article in last week's COUNTRY LIFE a shed 150ft. by 24ft. by 16ft. is estimated to hold the equivalent of thirty-five stacks, and thereby a "clear saving of £21" for thatching is claimed. This seems to me to be a little one-sided, as against this saving must be charged the interest on the capital sunk and depreciation on the building. If the cheapest form of building is used, a fair amount to allow for depreciation and repairs would be 10 per cent. per annum, and as interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum is now easily obtained for capital, we have 10 per cent. and 6 per cent. charges to consider. The sum of £21 per annum would therefore provide the interest and charges on a building costing about £130, which is probably about half the present day cost of the shed referred to. It is abundantly clear, therefore, that there is no saving on the thatching cost. Nevertheless, because of the other advantages I am strongly favourable to the idea of a rack shed, and am taking steps to find out just what the expenses of such a building would be.

The rack shed, however, seems to afford a good starting point for a much more extended revolution in grain harvesting methods in this country.

In other parts of the world grain headers or strippers are largely used which merely remove the ear and grain from the standing crop and leave the straw in the field. Attachments are provided which secure the automatic bagging of the grain, so that the crop is removed in sacks. A further development of this idea is the Baldwin standing grain thresher, which not only removes the grain from the standing crop, but rough threshes it also and then bags it.

The objection that the grain may not be evenly matured or may even be damp is apparently disposed of by the statement that grain in such condition is safely matured in the sacks if these be hung up in a dry place exposed to a current of air.

This method of curing the grain is therefore the rack shed principle applied to the ear or grain only instead of to the whole sheaf, and appears to be the better method as less space is required, the crop is more conveniently handled, and the binder, binding twine, stooking, loading and stacking are all dispensed with entirely. There remains the matter of the straw left in the field. The question is, can the straw bear the expense of all the labour necessary to use it as bedding or fodder? If the stripping system of securing the grain is a success, I am of the opinion that the straw is best left in the field, as its value there minus all handling charges is greater than its value as bedding or fodder when these charges have been taken into account.

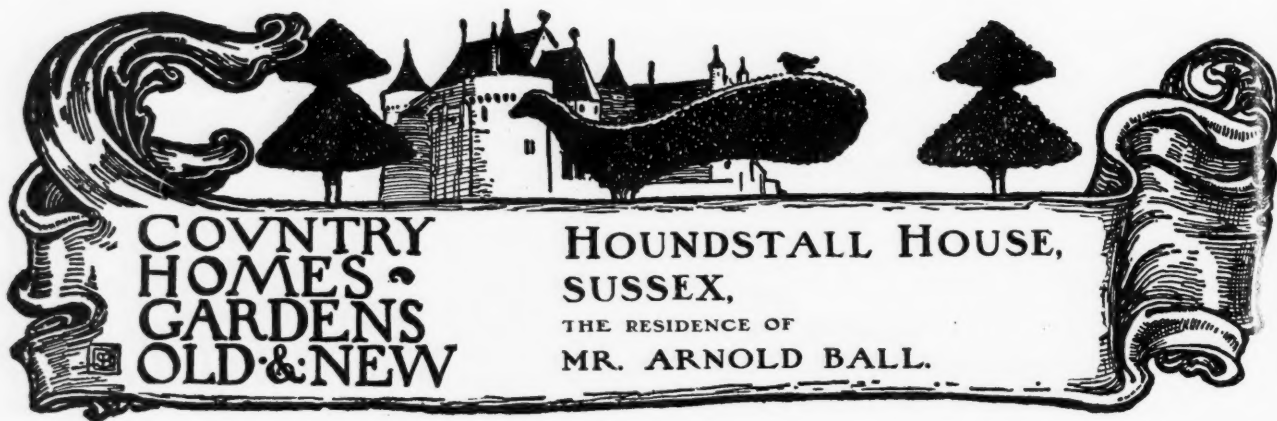
As manure it is equally valuable if ploughed in where it stands. The changes which take place when used first in the farmyard are due to the addition of animal excreta, and the straw merely serves as a conveyer. These excreta can be absorbed by other forms of bedding or can be collected and applied minus bedding in a much less bulky form. If ploughed in as it stands the straw is evenly distributed over the field, and in addition to the labour charges already mentioned the costs of hauling back to the field from the farmyard and distributing in the field are eliminated.

It appears that the revision of the whole grain cropping programme of the present day over a considerable area in the British Isles rests upon the decision as to whether standing grain headers (or threshers) in conjunction with rack sheds can adequately save the grain.

In any event the idea of using rack sheds for saving crops and for quick clearing of the ground is one which invites close consideration, as grain crops are not the only crops which might be affected if a standardised sectional building of low cost were obtainable. In America many thousands of houses per year are built of wood to standard designs, and are sent by train in sections to the buyers, who erect them themselves from instructions supplied by the makers. The rack shed seems a simple proposition to deal with on these lines, and very shortly I shall have figures available which will enable me to refer to this subject again in a practical manner supported by estimates and designs.

The real difficulty of the moment is the supply of material, as timber, iron and steel are available in minute quantities only except for direct war requirements. Possibly, however, the importance of the food question might induce the Government to allow special facilities in regard to materials for such a purpose.

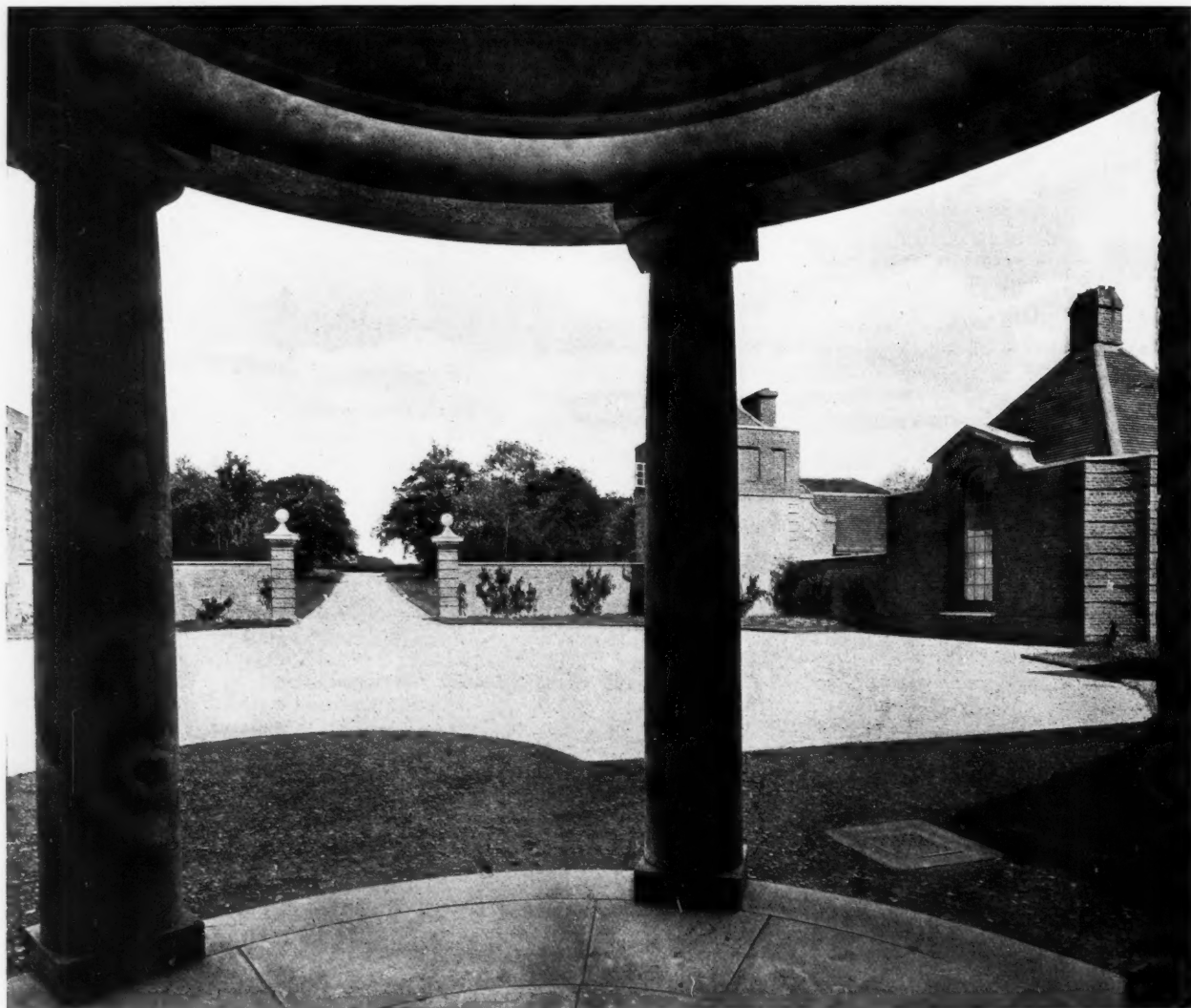
PLOUGHSHARE.



ALWYN BALL, the architect of Houndstall House, was killed while leading his company in the action which resulted in the capture of Beaumont-Hamel and Beaucourt. In him England lost not only a most able and gallant officer, but an architect of high promise. The house by his hand which is here illustrated, would be a fine monument to any architect; it may well come as a revelation, not only to many who are interested in modern architecture, but even to its creator's intimate professional friends. For though it is the work of a young man (Ball was only twenty-eight years old when he designed it), it is still true to say that the talent which produced it was slow in developing. The writers of this article had been in the closest and most friendly association with him from 1907, and welcome the chance of telling of his splendid qualities of heart and brain, and of acknowledging the devoted and unsparing assistance which he gave them in those years of his growth. But even they would scarcely have known how great his achievement might some day have

been, but for the evidence of this piece of work which he was able to finish before his career was cut short.

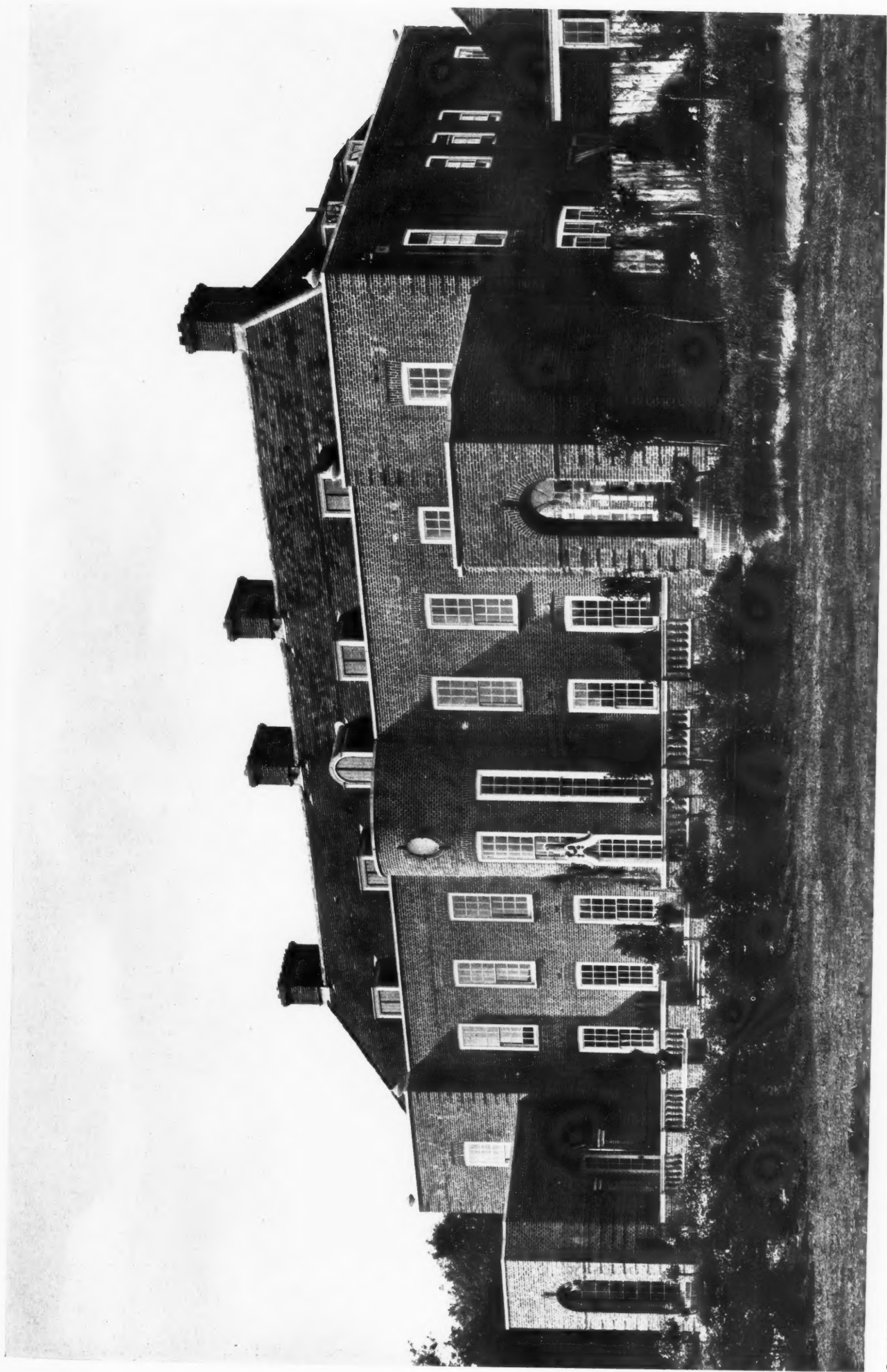
Coming to architecture later than some, he attended classes at the Birmingham School of Art, but he never went through any of the great architectural schools, nor entered for the students' competitions. So it was that he had not acquired that fluency in draughtsmanship and design which may make or mar a young architect, as he either has strength to use it wisely or yields to its temptations. In this, as in all other things, Alwyn Ball was his own counsellor. He readily made up his mind what was and what was not worth doing in life. Architecture, and afterwards soldiering, seemed to him eminently worth while; first to one and then to the other he gave himself with a passionate zeal and a devotion to detail which must have carried him very far in either career had not both been closed or consummated when he "built a house that is not of Time's throwing," and gained that "corner of a foreign field that is for ever England."



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LOOKING OUT FROM FRONT DOOR.

"COUNTRY LIFE."



SOUTH FRONT FROM SOUTH-EAST.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

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Copyright.

ENTRANCE FRONT FROM GARAGE.

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CENTRE OF SOUTH FRONT.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

Houndstall House, Mark Cross, stands on a gently sloping site in the glorious wooded country to the south of Tunbridge Wells, and has a view that sweeps magnificently towards Pevensey. Houndstall was not the old name of the estate, but was chosen from among the names of its fields and shaws. The house faces a straight drive which opens on to the road without either gate or lodge, whereby not only is the road left unspoiled to the public advantage, but the house, which is not in itself large, gains in dignity and completeness. The house end of the drive is flanked by two cottages as sentinel lodges, and the garage, laundry and subsidiary buildings are ingeniously ranged on either side to form the forecourt. The plan of marshalling all the adjuncts of a country house into an ordered group, so common in England from mediaeval times down to the beginning of the nineteenth century, seems to have been killed by the Victorian proprieties, which sought to hide all menial buildings in laurel shrubberies. The variety and interest of this grouping allowed the north front of the house to be kept wholly simple, and yet there is no feeling of baldness. Apart from the little stone finials on the corners of the parapets, and the rusticated quoins—suggested rather than formed by recessing every fifth course of bricks at the angles—nothing has been added merely for the sake of enrichment; even the interesting details of the porch and rain-water-heads are extraordinarily reticent. The materials which have been used throughout could hardly be improved upon; the walls are faced with small Dutch bricks of a rather light grey-red colour, with Portland stone dressings, and the roofs are covered with red-brown Craddock tiles; there has been no faking of materials, no straining after an antique effect.

The garden front, with the upper terrace closed at each end by very rightly designed and rightly placed pavilions, is eminently successful. The curved pediment and vase over the central doorway is one of the few lighter touches that the architect allowed himself; with his own hand he picked out its carved enrichment in charming colours. It says much for his strength of character that a man who could design such dainty ornament as this should have used it so sparingly. The terrace is paved with rough, greenish-grey, random-coursed slates, margined with the same Dutch bricks as are used for the walls, and the whole is delightful. The lower terrace is also paved and laid out with flower beds, and the main lines of the intended garden have

already been carried out. The house was unfinished when the war started, and owing to the subsequent shortage of labour much of the detail of the garden scheme, shown on the very interesting plan now published, has had to be postponed. So also the circular pergola on the central axis of the house, the canal, the temple on the far side of the lake; in fact, all the water gardening. Some garden walls have been temporarily formed of railway sleepers instead of bricks; all this was inevitable; but it is much to be hoped that the whole will some day be finished. The house is one that emphatically demands a dignified setting; moreover, the garden design is in itself quite as worthy of execution as the house. The owners—who throughout gave the architect every encouragement and the freest hand, which he gratefully appreciated—quite realise this and have a strong desire to complete a memorial to a near relation; such as few can be fortunate enough to possess.

The house inside is skilfully and ingeniously planned and full of interest; the details are worked out with great refinement, yet all is fresh and spirited and throughout there is a feeling of fine judgment and an absence of straining



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FROM THE DRIVE.

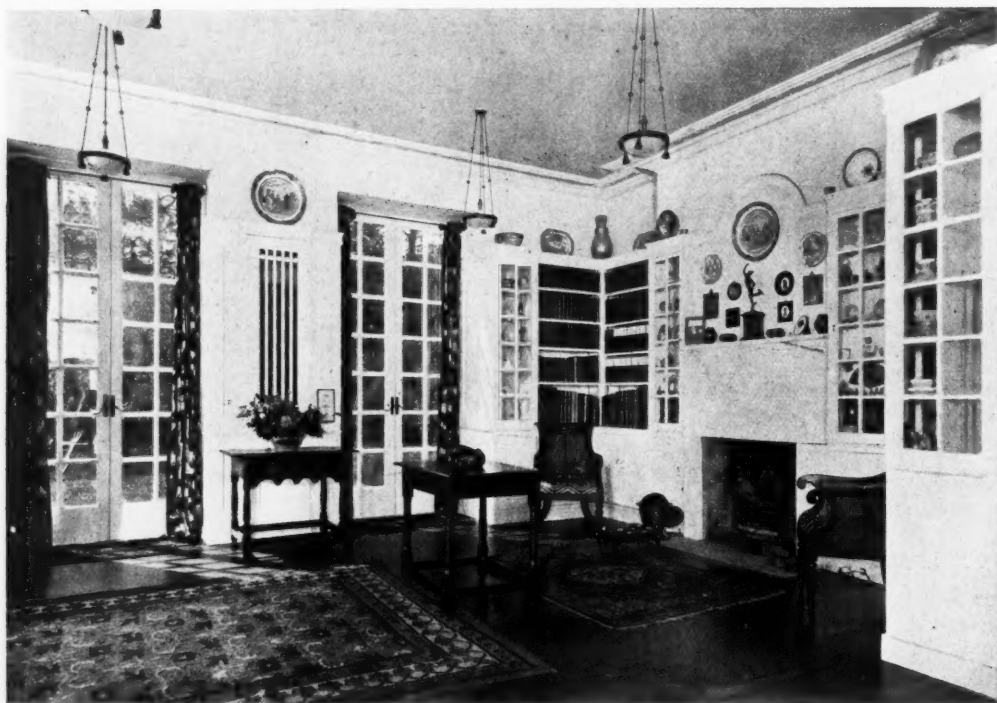
"COUNTRY LIFE."



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SOUTH TERRACE FROM PAVILION.

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LIVING - ROOM FROM BILLIARD - ROOM

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THE HALL.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

after effect. The work has that happy look as though its author were well versed in history—in this case eighteenth and early nineteenth century English history—but had put his books upon the shelf and spoke simply in his own language without thought of either style or originality. The hall is two storeys in height with the ground and first floor corridors running across one end of it. The staircase is relatively unimportant; it is large enough but not emphasised, and has been neatly worked into the angle of the plan by the porch. The drawing-room, though a charming room with most delicate details, is relatively small as compared with the big living-room which, with its ample bookcases, billiard table and subsidiary garden room, will obviously be the general sitting place of the house. On the first floor the eastern end of the house is devoted to children, the big day and two night rooms making, with their special bath, lift and pantry, a very complete nursery suite quite shut off from the other rooms. The secondary stair is very cleverly planned to serve these rooms, and the traffic to the servants' rooms on the second floor is kept shut off. There is, again, another staircase to some very pleasant guest-rooms on the attic floor, the corridor of which is most successfully and ingeniously lit by windows below the level of its own floor. It will be noticed on the exterior views that there are no dormer windows on the northern side of the roofs.

But it is the hall that leaves the most vivid picture in the mind—though the camera here, as usually in high places, is less convincing than the draughtsman—the vaulted

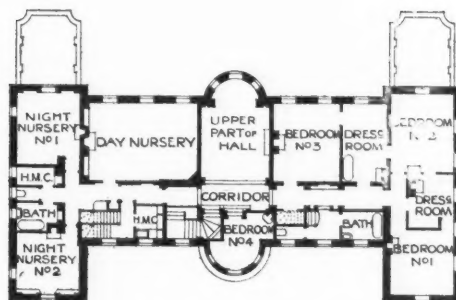
ceiling, lofty windows, and gallery supported on black marble columns, the fine panelling of silver grey sycamore inlaid with ebony, black floor and red and gold electrolier (carved by Mr. Esmond Burton) combine to form a worthy entrance to a beautiful house.

A. D. SMITH.
C. C. BREWER.

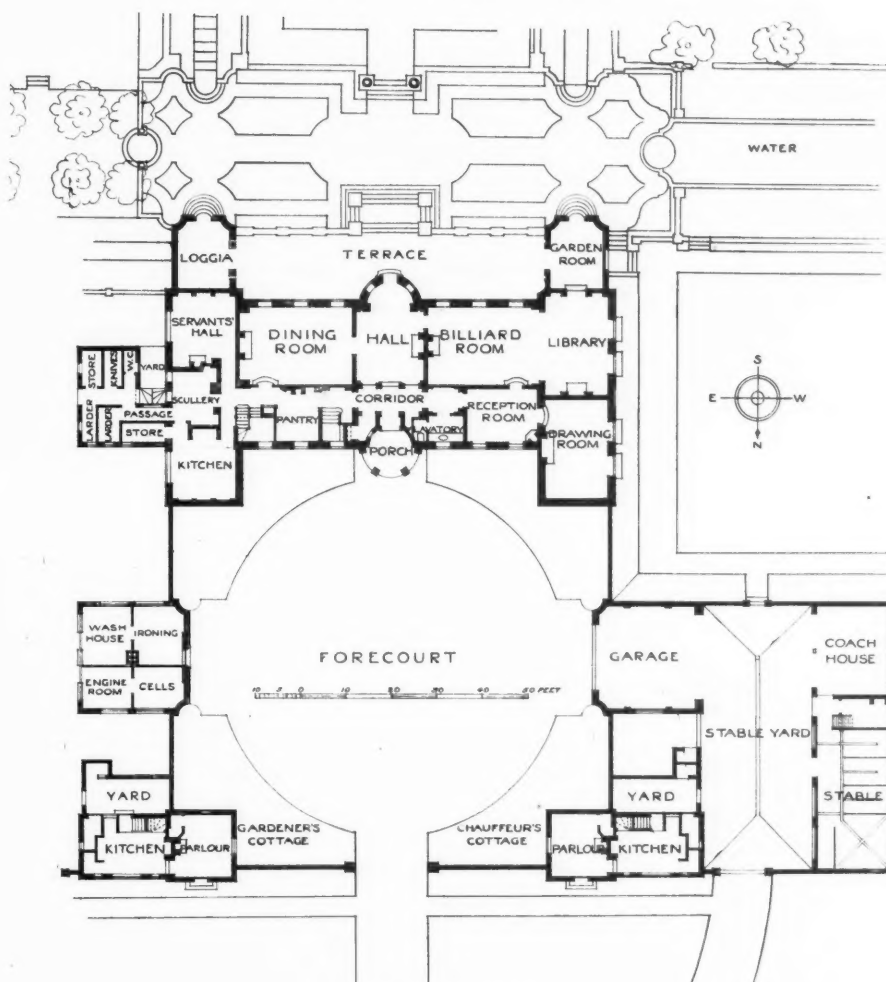
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE.

Alwyn Lancaster Ball, born at Greenwich in 1884 and educated at Colfe's Grammar School, Lewisham, began by studying law and took a first-class in the Intermediate LL.B., but then decided upon architecture as a profession. He was thereupon articulated to his uncle, Mr. J. L. Ball of Birmingham, to whose inspiration his debt was great. Returning to London in 1907, he became assistant to Messrs. Smith and Brewer, who would gratefully record in particular his work for them in connection with the National Museum of Wales. He remained closely associated with them, but also carrying on his own practice—chiefly domestic work in the neighbourhood of Brasted, Kent—till military duties called him.

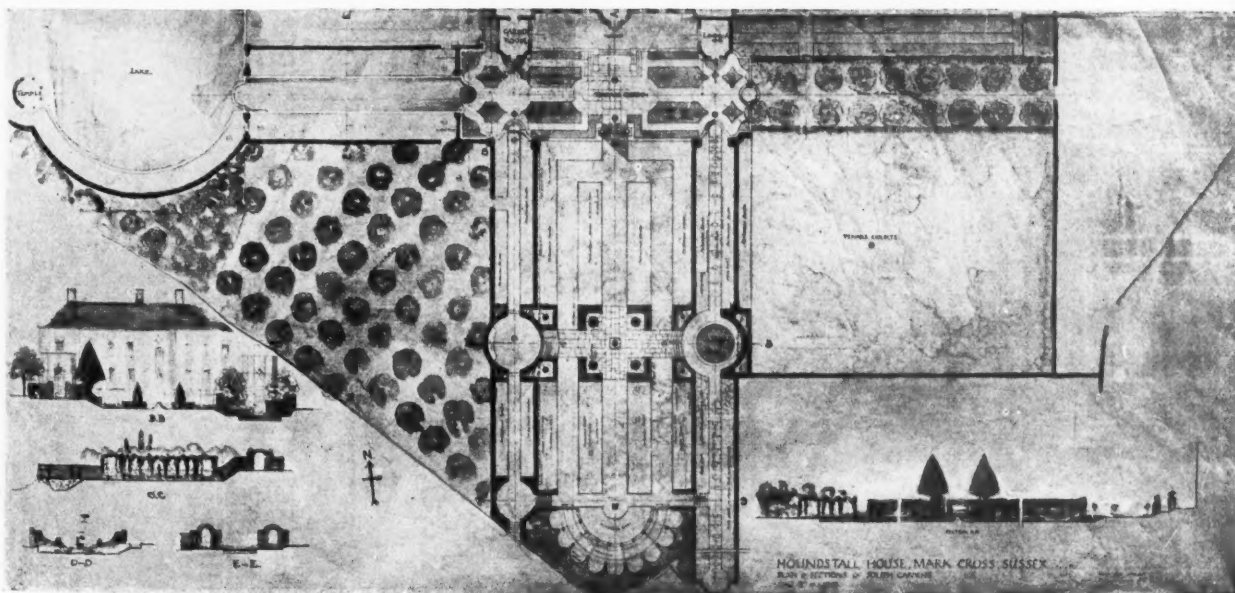
In August, 1914, he joined the United Arts Volunteers, in which he became a Platoon Commander. In May, 1915, he obtained his commission in the R.N.V.R., going out with a draft to Gallipoli the following October. After some weeks of strenuous fighting he was invalided to Egypt, and then returned to Lemnos where he designed a memorial to the men of the R.N.V.R. who had fallen in the campaign. This



PLAN OF FIRST FLOOR.



GROUND PLAN.



GENERAL GARDEN PLAN.

memorial has since been erected, but owing to the lack of competent workmen it was found necessary to make considerable modification in detail. In the spring of

1916 he was transferred with the Royal Naval Division to the western front and was killed at Beaumont-Hamel on November 13th, 1916.

IN THE GARDEN

CLEMATIS MONTANA AND ITS MANY USES.

By GERTRUDE JEKYLL.

ALTHOUGH it is one of the most commonly seen of climbing plants, this Indian mountain Clematis can never be too largely used. Its freedom of growth and wealth of bloom fit it for the covering of any unsightly building or rough wooden fence. It will ramble up dead trees and over banks, it will cover arbour or pergola, and it is specially suitable for training over any succession of arches and swinging garlands. It is equally suitable for a cottage porch, or, with due restraint, for association with careful architecture; it is not fastidious about soil or situation and will submit to almost any treatment. Although its nature is to ramble a good 30ft., it will even allow itself to be cut back close, and, as one of the illustrations shows, to form a tufted plant covered with bloom.



CLEMATIS MONTANA AT A COTTAGE DOOR AND WINDOW

In this case a plant self-sown came up in a joint of the stone pavement at the foot of a step; to let it grow here would have been inconvenient, the walk above being already well covered; what this plant will do in future years remains to be seen. We have had it also in a flight of garden steps, and were able

to guide it along the foot of each step; the effect of a flowery garland trimming each step-foot was very pretty, and it was only given up because in winter some of the strands came loose and threatened to trip up anyone passing up or down the steps.

A favourite use of this good Clematis is to grow it with Guelder Rose, the Clematis running at will through and through the Viburnum. They flower at the same time.

The illustration shows this combination with the addition of the early Dutch Honeysuckle, whose soft, pale yellow colouring appears pleasantly from the white bloom-masses of its companions. Clematis montana is a native of the Himalaya. It is grown from



CLEMATIS MONTANA WITH GUELDER ROSE AND HONEYSUCKLE.



A FLOWERING TUFT OF CLEMATIS MONTANA.

seed and has been improved as a garden plant by selection of plants with wide-petalled flowers. For the reason that plants from seed are apt to vary and tend to revert to the type, comparatively poor flowers are often seen, and care should be taken to secure plants from a good strain.

CORRESPONDENCE.

APPLE TREE NOT BEARING FRUIT.

SIR,—I have in my garden an apple tree which has not borne fruit for several years. The other apple trees in the garden have good crops each

year. I can only account for it by the fact that a heap of earth some 2ft. to 3ft. in height, has been placed on one side of the tree. The tree always blossoms well.—R. C. BENNETT, Sheffield.

[The heap of soil to the height of 2ft. or 3ft. placed against the side of the tree is certain to have an injurious effect. We have known trees to be killed by raising the soil 1ft. around the stems. That the tree should flower well and not fruit is what might have been expected. It may be taken as evidence of weakness in the tree. An unhealthy tree gnarled by canker usually makes a good show of blossom for the same reason.—ED.]

ENGLISH FURNITURE IN SIR GEORGE DONALDSON'S COLLECTION. I

BY PERCY MACQUOID.

WE present in this series of articles examples of English furniture, mostly of unusual type, selected from the remarkable collection made by Sir George Donaldson which he has assembled together in

his museum at Brighton recently opened to the public. Embracing fine specimens from the reign of Henry VIII to that of George IV, it forms at present the most careful collection of its kind in the country. Owing to the great interest now shown in the study and possession of English furniture, it is increasingly difficult to meet with fresh examples of even recognised types, and when the piece breaks away from accepted characteristics of its class it becomes still more difficult.

There can be but little doubt that these latter exceptions owed their origin to the taste of certain "virtuosi" who, discarding the furniture of their predecessors, vied with each other in the production and possession of contemporary novelties. For instance, the chair Fig. 1 does not conform exactly to the designs generally adopted at its period, and was probably thought out by some rich amateur for the better distribution of the hair, hoops and coat skirts. Here the usual back of the ordinary walnut chair, *circa* 1714, is to be seen; stuffed, more ovate in shape and cupped at the top to receive the end of the periwig; a further departure can be observed in the seat which is almost entirely rounded, and the straight cabriole of the leg on the shod foot. There is also something suggestive of Scotch influence pervading the chair which brings to mind the celebrated but rather later needlework set belonging to the Duke of Buccleuch at Dalkeith Palace (see COUNTRY LIFE, February 10th, 1912), a hypothesis strengthened by the fact that Lord Byron's mother—a Gordon—inherited the set which included the specimen now owned by Sir George Donaldson.

Although little is definitely known about Scotch or Irish manufacture of furniture, the repetition of peculiar features that are to be found in such countries is bound by degrees to become convincing. Difference of origin is easily perceived in the three fine stools (Figs. 2, 3 and 4). Figs. 2 and 4 are English, the first, although being of a pattern much used in Ireland, does not belong to that nationality; the

excellence of the grotesque mask, the hocked and tufted legs with their "nervous" lion's paw feet and the delicate foreign touch to the shell and pendant all point to the



FIG. 1.—MAHOGANY CHAIR. Hooped back, with cupped depression for periwig and circular seat covered in original petit-point needlework of figures and landscape on light ground set in a red and yellow border. The legs are carved with an unusual treatment of shelled acanthus repeated on the shoe feet. Probably Scotch. *Circa* 1720.

best London workmanship, preferably the school of Giles Grendez of Clerkenwell, who was probably the maker of the lion-headed card table at Penshurst. No. 3, which is rather later in date than the foregoing stool, is very distinctly Irish, and for these reasons. The legs cabriole without much life, and finish in five front claws to the foot, instead of the usual four natural to the animal, the frame is deep and strongly curved in section, the ornament also appears more scattered than carved on the criss-cross ground, a peculiarity so constantly found on Irish examples. The decoration on Irish Chippendale may be best described as "flourishing and disconnected in design," and, though evidently dependent on England for patterns, presents a certain barbaric individuality that is attractive. Stool Fig. 4 is in the middle period of Chippendale, where largeness of style began to disappear in favour of encrusted detail and fantastic finish; here even the cabochon and every position of the wide side brackets are decorated. As the upholstery at this period is generally nailed close to these, the want of framing is often felt, so the carved legs appear to come too suddenly out of the upholstery; but the simplicity and lighter treatment of the ball and claw feet, which by this time had passed their apogee, in some measure redeem the want. Such stools as these were reserved for use by the rich, among whom a certain amount of "tabouret" etiquette still lingered, and their expense was considerable as they were usually carved on all four sides. Mahogany stools were little used by the middle classes and it is rare to find them made to accompany sets of ordinary Chippendale chairs, as they were made at the beginning of the century in walnut to accompany those suites.

In selecting objects for illustration from this remarkable collection no chronological evolution is attempted. During its formation Sir George Donaldson has evidently been guided more by the beauty and excellence of each piece rather than the link it would form in a consecutive chain. If one might infer a preference on his part for any particular period, it would seem to embrace the more picturesque elements of Carolean, late Stuart and early Georgian times rather than the more skilful construction and elaborate delicacy of Chippendale and his contemporaries.

There is a pictorial and aristocratic sense of opulence given by the gilt furniture of William, Anne and George I that the medium of mahogany fails to convey. In such a setting as Fig. 7 the fantastic effort of the brilliantly coloured needlework contrasts most agreeably with the gilt and rather weird forms of the woodwork; these high and gaily coloured backs must have formed a gorgeous setting to the pompous, yet dignified, people whom we know so well from their portraits, and who, at the period of this setting, appear to have dressed chiefly in plain velvets and satins. It is unfortunate that we are not equally conversant with the actual names of the artists and craftsmen who initiated this type of furniture, though we know that the style and motive originated from France and the Court of Louis XIV.



FIG. 2.—WALNUT STOOL, covered in needlework. The hocked and tufted cabriole legs are boldly carved with shells and husks, ending in lions' paws, the frame being aproned with a fine satyr mask. Width, 2ft. 2ins.; height, 1ft. 6ins. Circa 1722.



FIG. 3.—LONG MAHOGANY STOOL, covered in needlework. The frame is curved, aproned and sparsely carved with scrolled acanthus; the cabriole of the legs ending in five-clawed feet, though short, is most elegant. Irish. Circa 1740.



FIG. 4.—MAHOGANY STOOL. The fine carving on the graceful legs with their wide bracketings and delicate ball and claw feet is almost rococo in style, showing Chippendale under strong French influence. Height, 1ft. 6ins.; length, 2ft. Circa 1745-1750.



FIG. 5.—WALNUT ARM-CHAIR with hooped upholstered back and a seat with rounded corners in the Dutch fashion. The supports to the eagle-headed arms, necked with feathers and with strong outward twist, are carved all round. The legs with a narrow shell and very long C-scrolls terminate in feathered eagle's claws holding a ball. Height, 3ft. 6ins. Circa 1720.



FIG. 6.—GILT ARM-CHAIR with low upholstered back and scrolled padded arms. An early example of this style, the hipped legs carved with an ornate shell and beaded acanthus finish in scaled dolphin feet. The seat rail apron is well carved and interesting. Circa 1722.



FIG. 7.—HIGH BACK GILT SETTEE covered in petit-point of coloured flowers and Chinese figures on yellow ground. The supports to the thin eagle-headed arms are broadly palmated. The legs, exceptional in strength, richness and swing, are headed by masks and the Indian headdress so much introduced on furniture in the sixteenth century. Height, 3ft. 6ins.; length, 4ft. 6ins. Circa 1718.

LITERATURE

A BOOK OF THE WEEK

DEDUCTIONS FROM THE WORLD WAR" is the translation of a book written by Baron von Freytag-Loringhoven and published in this country by Constable and Co. It was stated in one of our papers a few days ago that it had gone into a fifteenth edition in Germany; but great efforts have been made to withhold it from the notice of those who are outside the influence of the Kaiser. Soon after its appearance, when certain German newspapers directed attention to the chapters "The Army in the Future," and "Still Ready for War," comment upon it was restricted or suppressed. This will excite no wonder in the mind of the Englishman who has read the book. The author is accurately described as the greatest soldier-writer in Germany. He holds the position of Deputy Chief of the General Staff, and has received the decoration of the Order Pour le Mérite in recognition of his position as an exponent of Prussian military aims. His book deserves close attention mainly because of its exposition of Germany's present attitude and the attitude it would maintain after a war wholly or even partially successful. General Freytag-Loringhoven writes, on the whole, frankly admitting many weaknesses in the German organisation for war and many misadventures in the field, particularly that crowning one in the valley of the Marne. But these do not affect his conviction that Germany is the greatest Military Power the world has ever seen, and that the method of training and preparation for war, notwithstanding its deficiencies, has proved more efficient than that of any other nation. Being a great writer, he does not write in the strain of mere vituperation to which we have been accustomed from the so-called experts who contribute to enemy newspapers. He recognises the strength, while trying to explain the weaknesses of those who are opposed to his own country. To the French he is extremely fair. After showing that the training of the French soldier on the basis of universal military service has developed his good military qualities and eliminated many of those failings which used to be attributed to French armies, he goes on to say:

The effect of universal military service has manifestly been to discipline the whole nation, and to furnish an appropriate vessel for its always very strongly developed sense of unity. Those who judged the French nation by the customary standard of former days have been astonished at their conduct in this war.

In regard to Great Britain his recognition is tempered by a greater severity. He pays a deserved tribute to the man who made the modern English Army: "Lord Kitchener was prompt in grasping the situation, and by raising a strong Army put the country in a position to sustain a long war." But, on the other hand, he holds that a new army has not the sustaining power of an old one: "The new English divisions could not attain either the coherence of the old troops of the expeditionary army first dispatched to France or the fighting value of the French troops." And he goes on to state that:

The English reached a high degree of technical efficiency, but their fighting tactics remained defective. Also, for all that tough courage peculiar to the Englishman, they lacked that spirit which can only be engendered by the consciousness of a lofty national purpose such as that for which the French were fighting. In place of her voluntary army England gradually built up for herself on French soil a national army; but voluntary army or national army, it served only the ends of English politics and the economic war against Germany.

We quote these opinions for their value as coming from an able if hostile critic. But the interest in them is only accidental. It was not to be expected that a prejudiced German would understand the capability and the patriotism of the English Army. What is of high importance to know is that this exponent of German policy laughs to scorn the ideals preached and set forth by men like President Wilson and Mr. Lloyd George. The proposed League of Nations he regards as merely Utopian. It is an article of his creed that a lasting peace is guaranteed only by strong armaments. Or, again, as he expresses it, "world-power is inconceivable without striving for expression of power in the world." The fundamental principle enunciated by him is that "War has its basis in human nature, and as long as human nature remains unaltered, war will continue to exist." In support he quotes the following words of Heinrich von Treitschke:

The polished man of the world and the savage have both the brute in them. Nothing is truer than the Biblical doctrine of original sin, which is not to be uprooted by civilisation, to whatever point you may bring it.

The League of Nations idea he dismisses brusquely with the remark: "We misconstrue reality, if we imagine that it is possible to rid the world of war by means of mutual agreements." Far from believing that war makes for democracy, he quotes with approval Napoleon's saying at St. Helena, that "Armies are monarchical through and through," and in the following passage rides roughshod over the idea that this war is made to end war:

In any event, as regards us Germans, the World War should disencumber us once and for all of any vague cosmopolitan sentimentality. If our enemies, both our secret and our avowed enemies, make professions of this nature, that is for us sufficient evidence of the hypocrisy which underlies them.

The principal aim of the book is to show how the spread of German militarism can be preserved and how Germany "must for all time to come maintain her claim to world power."

This country has reason to be thankful to Baron Freytag-Loringhoven for an exposition so candid. There are weaklings among us who refuse to believe that the German people are not so sickened by the war that they would be glad to bury the hatchet for all time. A sentiment like this may exist among those sections of the population which are most keenly alive to the suffering involved, but it is not shared in the slightest degree by the military caste whose spokesman we have quoted. They still hope to come out of this war in at least an equal position with their adversaries, and they are determined as soon as they can obtain a patched-up peace to begin the work of preparation for another and more decisive struggle. The plans for training are calculated so as to produce that mechanical obedience which has been so powerful a factor in the present war. They think that there will not be so much trench warfare in the battles of the future, and that accordingly manoeuvres and training must be all directed to the battles of movement. They are considering, too, such new weapons as the submarine and aircraft, the gas shell and the flammenwerfer which can be developed for future use, and they are looking forward to a time when Germany shall utterly and completely override not only Europe, but the whole world. Those who think there is any exaggeration in this statement of German aims cannot do better than obtain this book and study it, line by line and chapter by chapter, for themselves.

Over the Hills and Far Away, by Guy Fleming. (Longmans, Green, 5s.) IN a pre-war past one belonged to the company of those novel readers who, at the first hint of "tushery," were "Over the Hills and Far Away," to borrow the title of Mr. Guy Fleming's last novel. One was capable of gloating over the Stevensonian fate assigned to the tusher:

*"And when at length he pushes
Beyond the river dark—
'Las, to the man who tushes,
'Tush' shall be God's remark!"*

But in these days how welcome have become chapters entitled "The Smugglers," and "The Duel," and "I Meet a Highwayman." The reason, of course, is not far to seek. When one reads to the very present sound of guns and the hum of aeroplanes, it is inexpressibly soothing to open a book in which one is sure of meeting only smugglers of the past eternally immune from capture, duellists who die only if they are villains and thoroughly deserve to, a hero concerning whom one has the happy assurance that he can never, never be killed by anybody. Indeed, one wonders how it is that the whole race of novelists has not fled for relief to so cheerful and changeless a world as this of tushery. And one is so grateful to Mr. Fleming, who has done it, that one smothered even mental criticism of occasional lapses from tushing, occasional awkwardnesses of construction or sound that a finer ear would have avoided. One is content to ride along at the leisurely pace of his hero, picking up acquaintances (and Scottish pawkiness and Scottish tushery) on the road, to lie at inns, to delay for recovery from a cracked head, for aiding a distressed serving-maid near Gretna Green, for philandering harmlessly with her mistress—to do anything that marks so comforting a distance between past and present. For nothing, one sees with relief, is going to be able to bridge that merciful chasm of time; by no possibility can the year 1914 raise its sinister head even in the last chapter; and if anything more tragic than a highway robbery should attempt to rend one's heart (which it does not), one is aware of the further comfort up one's sleeve that the whole thing never happened at all. So that one closes a book which very properly leaves its hero married to the right girl and heir to an earldom, with the hope that Mr. Fleming will find it true that

*"Doomed is he who tushes
To tush and tush again."*

The Fall of the Romanoffs. (Herbert Jenkins, 12s. 6d.)

"THE Fall of the Romanoffs" is full of interest at the present moment in view of the crisis in Russia. Czar Nicholas, a man whose only fault was his lack of backbone and stamina, due to his delicate health and upbringing, was unfortunate, not only for himself, but for the whole world, in marrying a woman—German of the Germans—a woman who tricked her

husband and the Russian nation, bringing to bankruptcy and bloodshed a people who should have taken rank among the foremost of the great European states. It was unlikely that Princess Alice of Hesse, the only one of Queen Victoria's grandchildren who dare question her commands, should be merely the Consort of the Czar, and leave the question of politics to wiser heads. From the first she treated the entourage of the Court with a contempt which drove the better class of noble and the aristocracy generally into a seclusion which boded ill for the State. In a very short time she alienated from herself all the best and highest, and eventually fell into the slough of Rasputinism, that filthy quagmire of sensuality and cheap mysticism which ruined not only the Empress herself but hundreds of other all too confiding women. It has been put forward as excuse that the Empress's devotion to her son, the Czarevitch, was the cause of her falling under the influence of Rasputin; but any woman, unless her mind were actually unhinged, must have seen where Rasputin was leading, and would have exposed and denounced the filthy mujik who was for a time almost the uncrowned King of Russia, on whose word hung the most important appointments, and without whose gracious sanction the Czar or Empress dared not move in any matter—were it great or trivial. The natural sequence of this was that a patriot struck down this renegade priest, but too late to avert the terrible fate which has fallen on the Russian people. Germany was well served by her army of spies, who for years had been undermining Russian conscience and feeling, and who at last were able to bring about the great *débâcle* which severed Russia from her Allies to her own and dire undoing. The acrostic on page 15 is interesting. A useful book for the many who must be interested in those happenings in Russia which so nearly affect the British Empire,

Sea Power and Freedom, by Gerard Fiennes. (Skeffington, 10s. 6d. net.) THE burthen of Mr. Fiennes' review of the history of naval warfare is that every tyrant has ultimately succumbed to the pressure of sea power. It is a comforting conclusion, and if he is something sketchy here and there in the proofs of his thesis, the fault is with history and not with his intention. Apart from this generalisation, however, the book is one of solid value. It brings together in a closely knit, coherent account the various records of naval warfare throughout human history. The campaigns are outlined in a broad pattern such as can be easily understood by those to whom technicalities such as the weather-gauge and the starboard tack are an incomprehensible jargon, and Mr. Fiennes is a sufficiently deep student to set the minds of his readers following the right paths. As an introduction to a more detailed study of naval history the book has everything to recommend it: it does not attempt to be more.

True Tales of Indian Life, by Dwijendra Nath Neogi, B.A. (Macmillan, 2s.)

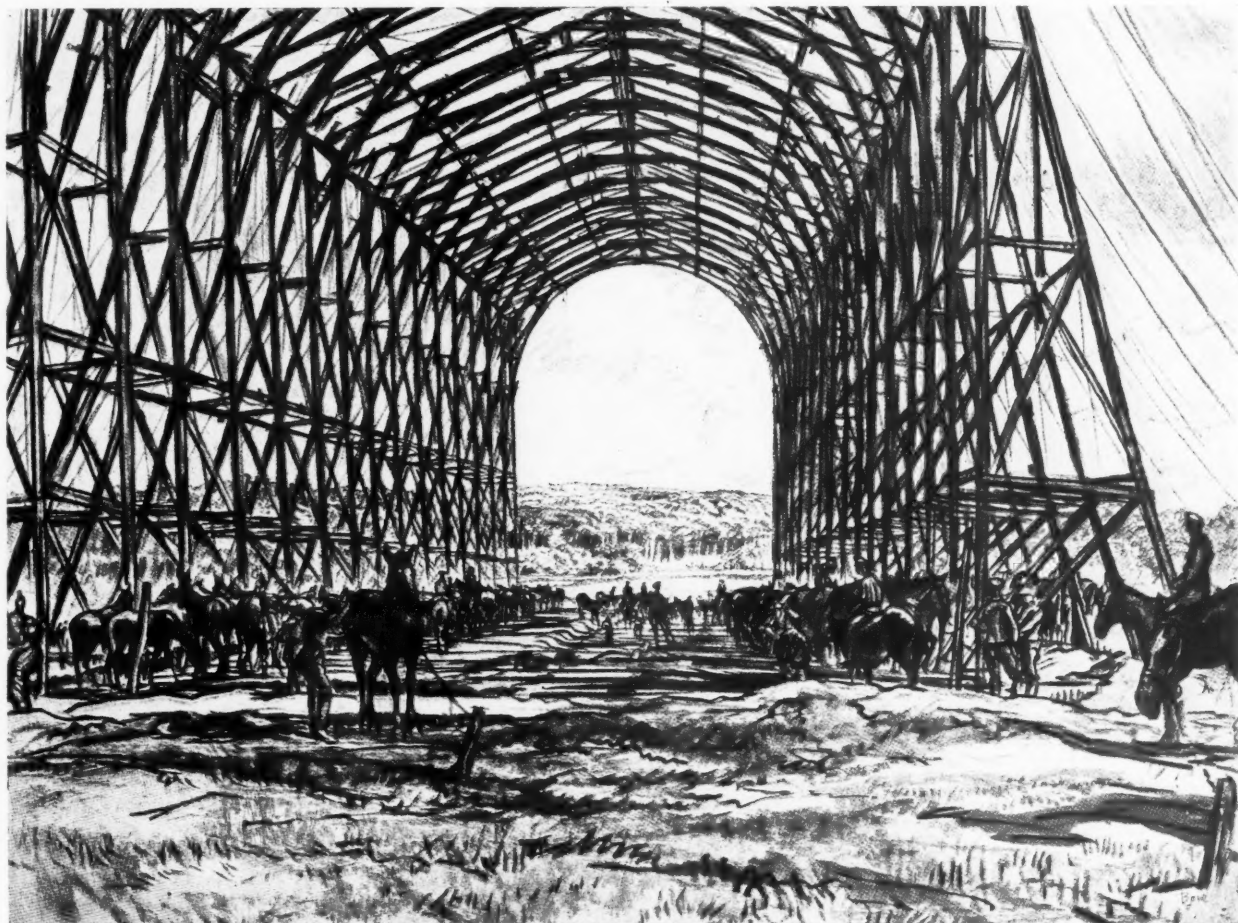
IT never was more important than now that English and Indians should cultivate sympathy based on an understanding of the best side of each other's dispositions. The Hindus understand us better than we comprehend them. The Bengali Babu has been the object of some cheap wit, but these stories will show us that he can be a finely courteous gentleman, a most generous benefactor and a faithful friend who fears no sacrifice of self. There is, too, a kindly touch of humour here and there in these pages. The reviewer who knows and esteems the finer side of the Hindu character can vouch for the fact that these stories are true to nature and to life.

"SCORCHED WITH THE FLAMES OF WAR"

The Western Front: One Hundred Drawings by Muirhead Bone. Vol. II, with text by C. E. Montague. Published, by authority of the War Office, from the offices of COUNTRY LIFE, LTD.

THERE was once a very lugubrious commanding officer who mostly sat silent at dinner in the mess dug-out. Occasionally he would begin a story; and no man ever had more attentive or respectful audience, though his listeners knew full well from past experience that there was small chance of the story reaching its point. And for this reason: the commanding officer almost invariably broke off abruptly with, "But it's no use telling you fellows. You wouldn't understand." What the interior feeling was that prompted this constantly repeated remark was never revealed. The only point in

recording it now is that there must be thousands of soldier men who feel they can do no more than offer a similar *non possumus* when asked to tell of the things they saw in Flanders. They just cannot explain, most of them, because there is nothing in the whole gamut of workaday experience to which it can be compared. The gay pageantry of war is gone. Set pieces such as Lady Butler painted in the grand manner have no part in war to-day. Edward III would have seen little from his vantage point on the windmill if the Black Prince had been winning his spurs in this year of grace. Often enough as the observer looks out from some rising knoll he sees nothing but a dreary waste of brown earth, scored and seared and pitted as never good earth was before. And the grim sleeping sickness that has overlaid the



A STABLE ON THE WESTERN FRONT.

landscape is but accentuated by the occasional tap-tap-tap of the Lewis gun or the desultory exchange of rifle fire. It needs imagination to enable one to take into mind that there in the earth are not hundreds, but thousands of men, sleeping, eating, working and watching. And then away behind is all the vast machine of war; so vast and complete that it is easier by far to think of it just going on for ever than to suppose it can ever come to an end—be packed up and disappear.

But if it cannot be revealed as it is to those whose five senses—not one less—have not come in contact with it, it is not for want of trying. Never before has "publicity" been an arm of war as it is to-day. Never have those at home been helped as they are helped to-day to understand what is happening across the Channel and what has befallen France and Belgium. And of all the agencies used by the Government none brings them nearer to achieving the impossible than the employment of artists of vigour and spiritual insight in the business of setting down the Thing as they see it.

Too often there descends upon official workers a sort of blight which robs their work of its individual qualities; removes, as it were, the sting of their personalities, but it has not turned out so with the official artists who have

days to come. It is because he knows that, that his work succeeds. He shows war not as a thing apart, but as belonging to life as much as to death. He sees the tragic splendour of it all, not as one weeping tears of impotent regret, but as the man with a vision in which strong purpose never for an instant flags or turns aside in its remorseless pursuit of the evil thing.

In a word, he is human and an artist, and so his pictures tell a tale for the multitude that must otherwise be left untold. In this new volume of pictures there is scarcely one that does not stir the imagination and set the scene a-moving. Not because they are a pictured inventory of horrors. They are not that. But because they are the work of an optimist who can show dread things that, despite their grim horror, quicken the heart to understand and appreciate the amazing heights to which ordinary commonplace men can in the moment of necessity leap to. So in these hundred new pictures which illustrate life in the line and behind the line, at sea and in the shipyards, we have a record that, fascinating as it is for us, will be a treasure without price for future generations.

Of the two pictures chosen for reproduction here the first, "A Stable on the Western Front," shows a large shed used temporarily as a stable. It also shows Mr. Bone's



AN UNTILLED FIELD.

been commissioned to depict the war. The authorities have remembered that the function of a pictorial artist is primarily to see, and that it is only by giving him absolute freedom to set down on his canvas the thing as he sees it that his work is likely to have true and enduring value. It is all to the good, then, that men so diverse in their approach and methods should be engaged on this work of record. A fortnight ago we reproduced some drawings by Lieutenant Paul Nash, one of the official British artists. Though absence of colour and the necessarily reduced size of the reproductions enabled us to do little more than give a hint as to the quality and content of the pictures, it is easy to see the gain in choosing artists of strong individuality. And now we have more of the fine and careful work of Mr. Muirhead Bone. His affair is not so much actual warfare as the setting of war and its effect upon town and village and countryside—the seizing, as it were, of the *ethos* of the thing and holding it for our examination.

It is easy enough to be "high-brow" over official pictures and to damn them with artistic jargon. That is a game which only a few disappointed little men have tried to play. No; work such as that of Mr. Muirhead Bone is meant not for the correct walls of an eclectic group of artists, but for the men and women and children of to-day and the

faculty for seeing beauty in the most utilitarian of constructional lines. This ability to make pictures out of such things as steam cranes is naturally seen at its best in the twenty pictures of shipbuilding. In them we can share the artist's pleasure as out of the overwhelming and amorphous mazes of intricate detail he induces not only lucidity and order but grace and beauty as well. The other drawing reproduced, "The Untilled Field," is a characteristic example of Mr. Bone's feeling for Nature even when she is desolate and forlorn. "This, or something like it," says the accompanying text, "meets the eye almost everywhere behind the Western Front. The ghost of a dead village can be seen through, like the phantom ship in the 'Ancient Mariner.' The old agriculture creeps steadily forward in the wake of the advancing Allied Armies, and this summer good fields of grain are waving on land that looked almost hopelessly derelict last year."

Not the least of Mr. Bone's powers is his versatility. Here in this volume there are finely conceived drawings now of a dreary waste, now of a sturdy old stone mansion, now a portrait, now a shipyard, now a sea sketch, and so on. In all of them he shows himself a master of what popular art should be, for his pictures will give as much pleasure to the unlearned as to the erudite. And none can mistake their message.